

## CEO Briefing Note for Schools and Governors: June 2017

### Purdah puts BDAT growth on temporary hold

Since the last briefing, you will be very aware that Teresa May announced a snap election would take place on June 8<sup>th</sup>. You may not however be as aware of the implications this has for academy trusts and schools on decision making, planning and growth.

I would like to specifically mention two examples:

1. The first big implication is that the information we were expecting on the National Funding Formula has been put on hold. This makes planning considerably more difficult over the medium term as future schools budget allocations remain uncertain. I would like to pass on a huge thank you to the staff at BDAT centre and across our schools who nonetheless have worked very hard to submit budgets in line with the Trust statutory accounting timetable.
2. Purdah also places restriction on decisions about new schools joining BDAT as no further academy orders can be issued during this time. We currently have four academy order requests with DFE and are hopefully that soon after the 8<sup>th</sup> June we can move forward to welcome these schools in to the Trust in the Autumn. We will of course keep you updated as decisions start to come in.



### **Who is who on the BDAT Board of Trustees?**

We have seen some new faces join the BDAT Board and a few familiar faces have/will be stepping down later this year including Philip Turner, John Watts and Anthony Bennett (who will be taking a sabbatical).

If you would like to remind yourself who is on the BDAT Board, the full list of Trustees and a little bit about them is available at:

<http://www.bdat-academies.org/about-us/our-board/>



**Calling all Heads, Chairs,  
Senior Leaders and  
Trustees**

**Don't forget to put Wednesday  
25<sup>th</sup> September in your diary  
for the next BDAT conference.**

RSVP to  
[Beverley.taylor@bdat-academies.org](mailto:Beverley.taylor@bdat-academies.org)



### BDAT Business as Usual....

Despite changes being afoot on the national front, business at BDAT this term continues at pace:

- The Trust received news of our **Schools Conditions fund allocation** this term allocating BDAT schools just over £750,000 to improve and maintain our school building portfolio. Following a successful pilot bidding programme we have now allocated just over £550K of the funding across 8 of our academies. A further bidding round will run in the Autumn term.
- We have also developed and will be launching over the next few weeks our pilot policy on use of the **Apprenticeship levy**. Look out for more news on what your schools allocation is and how you can maximise its use.
- In April 2017, BDAT was delighted to launch our first Employee Benefit scheme called “**BDAT Benefits**”. Whether you want to save money on your shopping or childcare, take care of your wellbeing through discounted gym membership and health cash plans or be a bit more environmentally friendly through our bikes to work scheme, there is something for you – with new offers all the time:  
<http://www.bdat-academies.org/about-us/employee-benefit-scheme/>
- And following on from this we will be hosting a meeting at BDAT on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June for all Heads and the BDAT talent management group to update you on plans for recruitment and retention next year with the aim of making BDAT the employer of choice for those working in schools. If you have yet to confirm attendance email [beverley.taylor@bdat-academies.org](mailto:beverley.taylor@bdat-academies.org)
- Finally we are delighted to report and thank all our schools who took part in the new **Safeguarding** audits this year. All schools have now been audited and are compliant. We have signed up to another round of audits for new schools joining BDAT and shorter health checks for our existing academies for next year and we will also be providing **free health and safety audits** as part of our core offer. More information to follow on both programmes shortly.
- And speaking of audits, as a growing MAT we have now reached the point where from 2017-18 we will be legally required to have an independent internal audit across all areas of Trust business. This is in addition to our external financial audit. We are currently developing this programme of work and more information will follow shortly.

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### **UPDATED SCHEME OF DELEGATION NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2017-18**

In April the BDAT board reviewed and updated the scheme of delegation (SoD) for the Trust. The main changes incorporate new roles in the Trust e.g. Executive Principals, clarify the role and remit of the Board sub-committees and include new programmes like the aforementioned SCA fund allocation. All LGBs will be sent a copy of the SoD to note in their summer 2 LGB meeting. The new scheme, which has also been colour coded to aid accessibility, is now available on <http://www.bdat-academies.org/bdat-business/our-articles/>

NEWS from our schools.....



**The Great Immanuel Bake Off** was on the 24th March and raised nearly £1,250 for Comic Relief through various events including the Bake off, a bake sale for staff and students, wear something red or a red nose for £1, a sponsored basketball event and a Trampolineathon event.

55 student and 20 staff entries for the Great Bake Off.

Meanwhile staff at **Christ Church Academy** in Shipley took part in the three peaks challenge last month to raise money to enable them to continue the “Fuel for School” programme in their academy in 2017-18. Fuel for School is an exciting initiative created by [The Real Junk Food Project](#) designed to help remove hunger as a barrier and highlight the vast amounts of wasted (yet perfectly edible) food across our local and wider communities.



The aim of the sponsored walk was to raise funds for the popular programme to extend provision for a further 12 months. School staff including Philippa Foster (Head teacher) and Richard Ireland, (Deputy Head) took part in the 25 mile walk and were extremely pleased and proud to complete the challenge within 12 hours. So far, staff at Christ Church have raised over £1500 to continue the programme, and hope to raise the remainder of the £2600 target total through further fundraising.

Finally staff and pupils at **Westminster Academy** took part in a garden party celebration in May to celebrate the launch of their new outdoor early years provision. Following a £51,000 investment the exciting new area encompasses a range of areas including a castle and moat, maths shed, mud kitchen, sandpit and bug hotel – each designed by a specialist EY Consultant to bring learning to life. The school also proudly showcased an improved indoor early years space for their 3-5 year old pupils designed to bring every day learning to life.

Keep up with the latest news and share your stories: [#weareBDAT](#)

